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ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE D1THE WASHINGTON POST  
9 April 1982

# The Luce Mystique

## Clare Boothe Is Back in Town

By Paul Hendrickson

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Clare Boothe Luce, whom detractors think of as a "Dragon Lady," has returned to Washington. She is back in a city where Republicans currently preside and where she has lived on and off for half a century. She is back for a spiral of reasons, not least, you suspect, out of a desire for some good conversation at dinner parties again. (The Daniel Boorstin are due at her door in an hour to take her to the Cosmos Club.) In

advanced age she has answered another bid to serve her country, something she has been doing sporadically in one capacity or another since she was a member of Congress from Connecticut in the '40s. Doubtless, she doesn't mind the limelight again, either. The other evening she gave a speech in Connecticut on foreign intelligence. It was a sellout. According to her secretary of 35 years, Dorothy Farmer, people stood in line in the rain for tickets.

In the middle distance, past the blond locks falling to her shoulder, lay the interior of her new apartment. There have been many Luce abodes over the years, in Connecticut and Hawaii and Rome and other climes. This newest is near the Shoreham Hotel. She used to have a place at the Watergate, but that one was sold and she is putting up here now. From the doorway (which the

visitor is still trying to get past), the apartment looks serene and tasteful, maybe not Diamond-Head-breath-taking, but with hues of blue, fine rugs and paintings, lashes of afternoon sun lying on gleaming furniture. Her dining-room table hasn't come from Hawaii yet and that is a bit of an irritant.

This time around Luce is serving on Ronald Reagan's reinstated Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board. (She was on the board before, as an appointee of Richard Nixon and then Gerald Ford; Jimmy Carter abolished it.) She is also a consultant to the National Security Council. Her friend of 30 years, National Security Affairs adviser William Clark, called her up and she accepted on the spot. (She had been advising him at the State Department.) She and Clark have known each other since Clark and Luce's daughter were at Stanford. Her daughter, Ann Bokaw, who was her only child, died in an automobile accident in the '40s.

Most Aprils, Clare Boothe Luce celebrates her birthday with the Clarks at their home in California. "Hers was the first name I thought of when I came over here," says Clark. "I asked her to be a consultant because of her interest and knowledge in the NSC process, particularly in intelligence. I might add that the president has a great trust in her, too." She goes down to the White House regularly, according to an aide, whenever Clark wishes to